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SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: BRAZIL: UPDATE FOR WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR
REPORT

REF: STATE 143552

1. Post provides the following in response to reftel's request for information to update the Worst Forms of Child Labor Report:

2. The GOB administers a number of programs and projects to combat child labor and related issues in Brazil. The GOB will implement the following anti-child labor programs from 2004-2007.

-- Future Worker's School (Escola do Futuro Trabalhador): This awareness raising campaign, sponsored by the Ministry of Labor and Employment (MTE), is designed to teach basic labor rights to low-income elementary and high schools students.

-- Child Labor Mapping System: The Ministry of Labor (MTE) developed a system to monitor child labor practices throughout the country. The Special Group to Combat Child Labor and Protect Adolescent Workers (GECTIPA) is responsible for updating the system. GECTIPA exist all 26 Brazilian states and works under the auspices of the "delegacias do trabalho," police offices that handle labor issues. Delegacias do trabalho receive and investigate labor abuse allegations.

-- Labor Inspections: The MTE conducts labor inspections throughout Brazil to eradicate slave labor. Between January and August of this year, labor inspectors freed over 2,464 workers. Post does not know what percentage of freed slave laborers were children or adolescents.

-- GOB Awareness Campaigns: The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Social Development will develop awareness raising campaigns in coordination with NGOs and international organizations such as the ILO to combat child labor.

-- Program on the Eradication of Child Labor (PETI): PETI provides stipends to low income families who have removed underage children from the work force and placed them into school. The stipends are designed to help alleviate financial difficulties that stem from the loss of the child's income.

-- National Commission to Eradicate Child Labor (CONAETI): CONATEI is coordinated by the MTE and includes a number of ministries and organizations. It oversees the implementation of ILO Conventions 138 and 182, and manages the PETI program.

-- Ministry of Social Development (MDS): MDS has developed an after school program to assist low-income elementary and high school students. The program provides educational assistance, sport instruction, and art-related activities.

-- School stipend program (Bolsa Escola): The Bolsa Escola program provides stipends to low-income mothers to ensure that children and adolescents do not leave school to enter the work force.

Legislation Changes

3. On March 1 2005, the Brazilian Senate approved three bills proposed by the Parliamentary Investigation Commission (CPI) to combat child labor and the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

4. A new amendment to the Children and Adolescent's Act plans to close down any lodging facility that accommodates unaccompanied children and adolescents. The Senate also approved a number of changes pertaining to sexual offenses against minors and the mentally ill. The proposed changes must be approved by the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies before they become enforceable law.

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